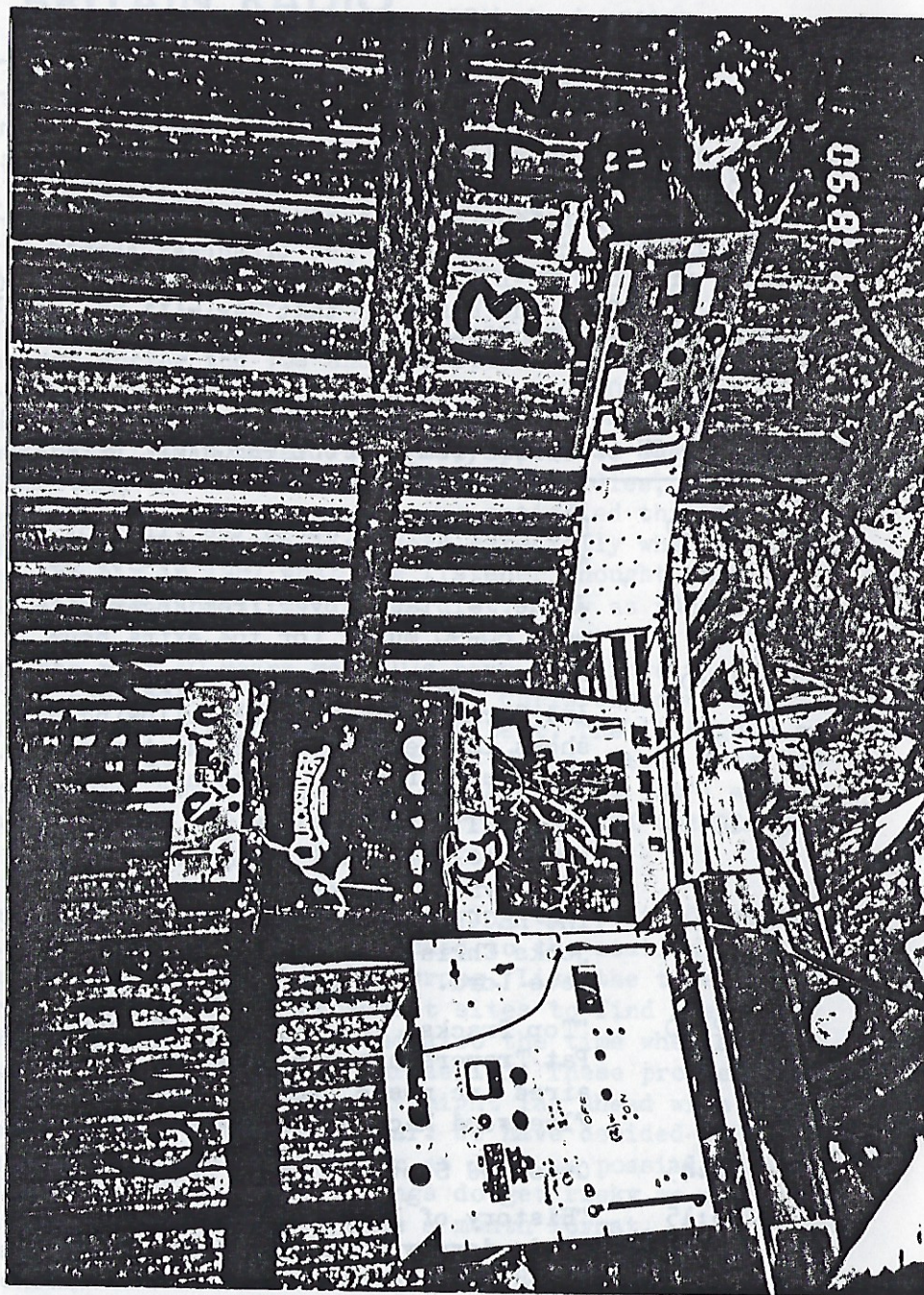




# ACTIVITY MAGAZINE

Free Radio News Each Month

Issue Number 26.....June 1990  
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Hello and welcome to ACTIVITY for June 1990. The past month of May has seen some very strange conditions as we move towards mid-summer. You can find solar fade-outs where even the 49m band and all their KWs is more or less dead. Long-skip prevented us from hearing Orion at all on Sun 27 May, not even a trace of their signal, but we were assured that they had been on, the same applied to BRI. And then there's the afternoon static, the usual sign that SW has reached summer. The weather suggests summer's here also with it being a warm holiday Monday as we start this edition. Station-wise, Saturday mornings might be making a comeback and 15 MHz is still looking promising for the next few months.

## SHORTWAVE

All times BST unless stated  
GREAT BRITAIN Atlanta Radio were heard Sun 6 May on 6280 with a strong signal, programmes included "Soundabout" and an interview with Tony Prince. The station had planned to transmit Hol Mon 28 May but seem to have called it off at the last minute. They will close come the new laws, expected to be in October. Station op Mark Stafford still hasn't ruled out the possibility of a night-time broadcast on a Sat night. Hunstanton add.

Britain Radio Int'l transmitted their regular 2nd and 4th Sun broadcasts in May (13 and 27) and were also noted with an evening test around 1930 on Sun (cont over)



6 May, presumably in preparation for the next day (Hol Mon 7) when they were active with programmes for the bank holiday. In June, BRI reaches it's 10th anniversary, on Sun 10 June the celebration will take place on 6232 with the following schedule: 0900 Roger Davis, 0930 Jayne, 1000 German or guest DJ, 1030 "BRI Party", 1200 "Top Tracks", 1245 The history of BRI (until close).

Radio Confusion were active Hol Mon 7 May on 6290 with "independent-orientated" music for the bank holiday. The station hoped to be on this Hol Mon 28 May but were not heard. Plans are ahead to put the station on 15 MHz, probably in the 15.6 or 7 range, a small tx to drive a "burner" (about 100 watts) is almost built and they hope to start soon in the early morning around 0400 or 0500.

Delta Radio returned during May and were heard Sat 26 May on 6290 with the "Rock n' Roll Extravaganza" with RECCs Norman Nelson. Another transmission took place Hol Mon 28 May on 6257 but utility interference didn't help reception. The station plans to transmit on the last Sat in each month from 1100 on 48m. Let's hope this time they do get going, in the past they've done 2 or 3 months and then disappear for 6 months or so. Hunstanton add.

Radio East Coast Commercial were active on Suns 6 and 20 May on 6290, there's no sign of any re-activation of the 11 MHz service, presumably tx problems are to blame for this absence. Again, Hunstanton add.

Falcon Radio and Radio Virginia have been inactive recently due to tx breakdowns and also the people behind the two stations were involved with a local FM station again over Easter. The main difference between them is that Falcon play rock whilst Virginia vary into pop and oldies. The Cedex, France add is available here.

Freesound Radio were heard on Sat 12 May on 6199 with shows from Mark King and Richard Grahamme but were subject to suddenly being wiped out by a solar flare at 1230. Presumably the last Sun transmission went out, we noted a weak signal on the frequency but weren't able to get any ID though. Sat broadcasts are each 2nd Sat from around 1100 or 1130. Contact is via Salisbury.

Radio Gloria were a tentative log on Sun 27 May at 1245 on 6293 with a weak signal, presumably op Alan was calling WMR who'd been on earlier?? South Beechwood add here.

Northern Ireland SW Relay Service has been active again during May, heard Suns 20 and 27 May on 6273 with pop music and anns. The signal on 20 May was weak but the following Sun conditions were so that reception was up and down, going from weak to good and back again. 200 or 300 watts were claimed by the service, in the past it was difficult to imagine this sort of power being used since the signal-strength indicated lower power or perhaps a poor antenna is used? This coming Sun (4 June) they hope to tell the story of the raid on ABC Radio which is apparently the reason for their own absence. Bushmills Road is still used and the phone number for people in the UK is (0265) 53104. Listeners elsewhere will need to check for the code for them.

Radio Orion continue to be very active each Sun on 6299 with Mike Wilson (current pop/rock sounds), Paul Johnson (70s pop show heard in May) and Rod Lucas (70s Rock). Further transmissions were heard on the Hol Mons and also surprisingly Sat night 26 May but with a weak signal at 2355. The letters show went out on 6 May with Mike Wilson hosting. Regular Sun transmissions begin around 1100. It seems Rod Lucas has been opping the station for most of the month if indications are anything to go by.

Radio Pamela Int'l has not been heard by us on SW in May, despite being very active the past few months. It's true to say though that the crew are involved in other projects which can make SW broadcasts erratic. The new QSL sheets in old English are now available.

Radio Stella Int'l are still transmitting each early Sun morning on 6320 usually starting at 0000, the broadcast is made up of Jock Wilson with "Stella DX" which features oldies segmented with recent SW free radio recordings. A good pointer to night-time conditions. They were received in the USA around 0500 on 6 May. As you can see, the transmissions run overnight from Eire with the 90 minute tape being repeated a handful of times.



Radio Tina could be heard with weak strength on Sun 6, plus Hol Mons 7 and 28 May around 6210. Due to site problems, an indoor loft antenna has to be used, hence the weaker signal. DJ Rob (involved with Pamela) runs the station. Power is not 50 watts as we stated last time, it's lower than that, around 15-30 watts. On 6 May, an avid listener might have heard the station disappear for a time and then return, this was due to an amplifier blowing but luckily a replacement was available.

Total Control Radio transmitted on Hol Mon 7 May 1200-1320 on 6276 with it's range of soul and house music. They used an indoor antenna up until recently but since an outdoor one was installed the difference here is quite a lot, no longer weakish signals but a reasonable carrier. TCRs Hol broadcast did have some modulation problems though but made some tests in the afternoon of Sun 21 May and seem to have sorted these out. Cedex, France add.

UK Radio has been relayed via Orion during May (7, 27 and 28 noted), the relays seem to be shorter nowadays to what they used to be and presently last for about an hour. Most interesting of the month's relays for this station was on Sun night 27 May when they were active 2300-past 0000 on 6290. They broadcast locally to the West Midlands on MW/FM and presenters include Paul Johnson (Orion) and Paul Kay. Contact is via the Orion box in Rednall.

Weekend Music Radio were responsible for the long rendition of Arlo Guthrie's "Alice's Restaurant" on Sun 27 May on 6290. Following this, op Jack Russell then came on and said he was testing out a new modulator, played a few records and signed-off. A good signal was noted despite the long-skip. It would seem WMR has yet to start it's high frequency broadcasts for the summer although it's true to say we can't confirm this fact.

Wonderful Free Radio London have plans to test over-night (around 0100-0700 or 0800) 24-25 June and 30 June-1 July on 15730. These will feature rock shows from Andy Walker and Keith Archer. It's hoped WFRL will make a Sat morning broadcast on 3 June 1000-1200 or 1300 on 48m, their first in a while. Next Sun transmission is in late July, not June as was said last time. Hunstanton add.

THE CONTINENT Radio Marabu Int'l will transmit a special long distance test transmission early Sun 10 June from 0000-0100 on 15710. Reception reports will be highly appreciated and will be confirmed with the station's QSL card and info material. Marabu were also noted on Sun 13 May on 7484 with alternative music hosted by German speaking DJs. Presumably this was relayed by PFBS.

Radio California came through on the long-skip Sun 27 May on 6311 with a weak signal, content was in German with a few anns in English, there was mention of an oldies show before the station closed with a CQ call. Apparently the station are looking to transmit on a clear frequency between 6260-6320. Wuppertal should reach them.

Voice of Germany is a rather new station who were first heard 18 Feb courtesy of Radio California and Radio Qaos from Germany who put out the programme. A joint broadcast of all 3 stations was heard 28 Apr on 6240. Wuppertal add.

Radio DJ (Italy) are sometimes heard on around 26070 with distorted modulation, the latest news on this station is interesting, apparently 26 MHz could well be a harmonic of some form from their FM tx which broadcasts to the locals, hence the distortion. Write to them at: Radio DJ, Via Massena 2, 20145 Milano, Italy.

Radio Torenvalk and Radio Tonair made a short test transmission on Sun 6 May heard at 1545 on 6205 with good strength. They were heard for around 15 mins before s/off.

Radio Galaxy have recently issued an info-sheet saying that their transmission in March was willfully jammed by Sud West Radio in co-operation with Rainbow Radio Germany. Galaxy weren't running full power (usually 1 KW) because of technical problems, in fact power that day was just 40 watts which is probably one of the reasons the jamming was rather effective. It's no secret that Galaxy has made several enemies in Germany by continuously putting down other station's programmes.

Quality Radio were active on Sun 20 May, apparently using 9985, 15055 and 21850 at separate times. All we noted were pop music shows on 9985 at 1009 with fair reception. The station uses about 300 or 400 watts.



Voice of Europe is replying to reports with a very nice QSL card and an info-sheet, they're now settled on 7535 and reception is noted in Germany at it's best during the early morning hours. Power is said to be 1 KW.

Radio Nordlicht has been active in May, Suns 6 and 20 on 6240 and Sat 19 on 6205 with programmes in German and English. These were all heard in Germany but not by us although a reception report of the station in the UK reached us concerning this past weekend, the last in May. We have heard this station in the past, the last time being around several months ago. Early this year, they were active on 15050 which also reached these shores but this service on 19m appears to be currently inactive.

Pirate Freaks Broadcasting Service could be heard Sun 6 May on 7484 with Easter tapes and then briefly on Sun 20 May on 15050 before suddenly disappearing. Utrecht add.

Voice of the Netherlands carried out a night-time transmission on Sat 26 May up to shortly before midnight on 6240, a strong signal was received but with almost 500 watts perhaps that's no surprise. A telephone number was given out that night for listeners to call and the format of music that night was oldies. Hoogeveen add.

Radio Waves Int'l are heard on either 6320 or 7440 and amongst their broadcasts in May was a night-time broadcast on Sat 12 May with fair to good strength noted on 6320 just after 2100. The station has been announcing tests on 11400 which don't appear to be taking place, the solution to this puzzle seems to be that RWI often repeat old tapes which are not always suited giving out wrong channels etc. Another example was that night-time broadcast on 12 May when the DJ announced that we were all tuned to the "Breakfast Show"!!!

Radio Luce has definitely closed down earlier this year, some of the staff are now running a new station called Radio Spectrum (c/o RWI add), a couple of broadcasts have been relayed by Radio Waves Int'l so far.

XMAS Radio made their controversial broadcasts over the festive season and Herbert Visser of the station has said that all the mail which arrived at the Amsterdam PO Box

will be answered during the summer. Herbert is currently working as newsreader for the satellite station Radio 10.

Star Club Radio were on the air Sun 1 Apr with their own tx, op Roy Clark said that on Sun 18 Mar a test transmission was broken because of technical problems. The frequency on 1 Apr was 6315 with a poor signal in Germany. According to a letter from the station, SCR planned to be back on Sun 27 May at 0800 on 48m. A new QSL card will be issued soon. Contact is via Wuppertal.

Radio Limit were a tentative log on Sun 13 May on 7440 via RWI, the clue being the voice of Tom Clay. Heard in Germany with quite weak reception.

Radio East Coast Holland made a CQ call Sat night 19 May on 6242 and the following day on the same channel carried out a one hour broadcast announcing that it would take some time, perhaps a few months, before the station hit the airwaves again.

Radio Rebel 105 appears to be a new German station who were reported to have been active on Sun 29 Apr on 7489. Whether there is any connection between this and the East German calling itself Radio Rebel we are not sure.

Italian Radio Relay Service are now apparently going to be on the air daily 0700-0900 CET and again 1200-1500 CET on 9815. Full commercial broadcasting is set to start at the beginning of June. Address here is as follows: IRRS, Box 10980, 20110 Milano, Italy.

Sud West Radio were back on Sun 13 May on 6225 with a new 100 watt tx. The signal was strong in Germany but we only could get a weak signal. The add used before is still in use: Postfach 1243, 6685 Schiffweiler, West Germany.

IRELAND Jolly Roger Radio were heard by us Sat night 19 May at 2325 and Sat evening 26 May at 1822 of all times with a country music programme, the signal on the latter was weak here. Frequency: 6229.

Ozone Radio were only noted once during the month and that was on Sun 6 May on 6820 with a poor signal. They announced last month that transmissions were now back to being live. Add available is Salisbury.



NEW ZEALAND     Southern Music Radio made it's first appearance at the beginning of the month on Sun 6 May and this was courtesy of RWI on 7440. The name is just simply the new call-sign for 4IFR. Music played is mostly from New Zealand artists and the RWI Cedex add will reach them.

UNITED STATES     Well congrats must go to the US-based "Pirate Pages" who celebrated their 1st anniversary with Issue 26 on 3 May. They have about 65 readers and this has been achieved even though editor Andrew Yoder wanted to keep the membership of PiPa down to DXers who really love pirate DXing by not advertising it. Perhaps most surprising is the high percentage of contributors, they have about 15-20 for each issue! Send 2 IRCs for a sample: PiPa, PO Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214, USA.

## MEDIUM WAVE

Well unfortunately we did little monitoring of the 185m band during May, it's true to say for us there's very little of any real interest to listen for but we are aware that a number of you are interested, please help by sending your detailed logs if possible, to reach us no later than the last Sun in June (24).

Radio Pamela Int'l continued to broadcast to the Medway towns in May (Hol Mon 7, Suns 13 and 20) on 1609 except for the last weekend of the month when they were very active locally on FM at 101.0 MHz with a 5 watt tx. Steve Most informs us that the medium wave service hasn't closed or anything and further appearances will be made.

Radio Scotland from the Netherlands could be heard Sat 5 May 2300-0000+ with a fair signal on 1618 and music from Little River Band, Doobie Brothers, Beatles, Europe, Rolling Stones and later U2, Guru Josh, Adam and the Ants and Ram Jam. A phone call from Blond Pirate was mentioned, now there's a name from the past! Box 85, 9410 AB Beilen, Holland is the add here.

Unid noted at 0015 on 1614 on Sat 12 May with music from Steve Harley and the song "Tell Laura I love her". Some anns in Dutch were made but there was too much QRM for ID.

## ANDY WALKER

OK, so we all know now that Spectrum Radio are broadcasting on 558 KHz in the London area and we all know it was going to happen, and so did Caroline, so what are they going to do about it? It's catch 22. They could stay and fight it out, but if they do, what would be the consequent? Another raid? Towed in? We wouldn't know until it happened. So they move, but in doing so, they have given in, been put "on the run", given every new community station the go ahead to use the frequency which Caroline has chosen to operate on. So what do we do? Complain to Spectrum Radio on 071-3833000, no of course not. What about the IBA? All you'll get is an answerphone so I've been told. There was talk of Caroline transmitting 4 k/c's either side of 558 to cause a hetrodyne in the middle, but again what would be the consequent. My own opinion is that Caroline should move to another frequency and cause as less trouble as possible, even if it does give the impression that they are "running" from aggro. Of course another problem is in the pipeline, that is the amending of the 1967 MOA which is around six pages long and will almost finish off offshore broadcasting in Europe, two of the proposals are 1) Unlawful to broadcast from UK tidal waters, external waters and the continental shelf from ship or structure to which the MOA applies and 2) Unlawful to broadcast from ship in above, capable of being received in or causing interference to wireless telegraphy in the United Kingdom. This does not apply if authorised under the law of any country outside the UK. All we can do is write to members of the house of lords, radio and TV stations and newspapers, asking how UK law can be applied outside the UK, i.e. in international waters, as this would seem against international law. If you wish to find out more, phone the CM infoline on 0426 961640. If offshore broadcasting is facing it's final battle, and it looks like the government is going to win, I think at least we can fight to the bitter end, and if the government do win, we can say we did fight for it. A final note, the person who is nameless, please don't be stupid with your plan to blast away Spectrum's antenna system with a shotgun! That won't do free radio's cause anygood whatsoever! I shall say no more.



# BRITAIN RADIO INTERNATIONAL

10th Anniversary  
by Roger Davis

On Sun June 10th 1990 BRI celebrates a decade on SW. Our first ever broadcast took place on Sun 14th June 1980 using 6260 KHz, 21 letters were received for that one hour broadcast. We first decided to put the station together in 1979, the studio was built or should we say the gear was updated, as we had been involved with other projects during the 70s and the studio needed a complete re-fit. We obtained the SW tx in March 1980. DJs at that time were Roger Davis and Chris James. Our station policy then and still is today for it to appeal to the majority rather than the minority. I.E. Top 40, oldies, album tracks and offshore items. We are satisfied this is enjoyed by many of the listeners especially when we asked over the air in 1987 what the listener thought, the response was fantastic. The verdict: Stay as you are.

Over the past 10 years many DJs have been involved with us and have moved on: Chris James, Chris Johnson, Dave Jason, Simon Hendricks and Johnny Best. The list goes on. Our present DJ line-up consists of Jayne, Steve West and Roger Davis. The station name Britain Radio Int'l was chosen because the signal would reach the UK and Europe so we thought it was quite appropriate.

Many problems have cropped up during the past 10 years, although when listeners are tuned to the station you wouldn't believe anything is wrong. Like the time we arrived at one of our broadcast sites to find the whole place running with sheep! And also the time when a tractor got tangled up in our aerial. These problems now seem nothing compared to what might lay ahead with the new radio bill later this year. We have decided to continue with the station for as long as possible, a wait and see approach. But if things do get risky we shall reduce our schedule to a once a month format.

Over the past 10 years listeners response has been very good even during 84/85 with the sunspot minimum. We are finding at the moment listeners letters are not so many but the ones who do write are much more detailed about our programmes. In ending we would like to thank each and everyone of the listeners for their support and we invite you to our party on 10th June. The broadcast should commence around 0900 BST and run into the afternoon until possibly 1500 BST. The music on that day will be mostly from the 1980 to 1990 period. Frequency: 6230.

## BRI's 10TH ANNIVERSARY BROADCAST - SUNDAY 10 JUNE 1990 ON 6230 KHZ (48m) - FULL PROGRAMME DETAILS

- |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00 | Roger Davis - hosts the first of the warm-up shows with music from 80-90.                                                                                                                                                      |
| 09:30 | Jayne - takes over from Roger with more 80-90 music for the extra hour.                                                                                                                                                        |
| 10:00 | Simon Hendricks German Service - BRI's 3rd German host returns following his shows in the late 80s to host another 30 minutes for the station.                                                                                 |
| 10:30 | "The BRI Party" - to get the celebrations into full swing! Join Roger and Jayne with hopefully many guests inc RECCs Norman Nelson and former BRI jocks Chris James, Chris Johnson and Pete Lord. More 80-90 music and a cake! |
| 12:00 | "Top Tracks" - this time Sheffield's Pat Travers has his all-time top 10 aired inc music from the Carpenters, Fleetwood Mac, Focus, Mamas and Papas.                                                                           |
| 12:45 | Guest DJ Spot - to be decided.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 13:15 | "History of BRI" - the celebration winds down with a trip down memory lane of BRI's 10 years on the air inc airchecks. Hosted by Roger and Jayne.                                                                              |